

RWA® Mystery/Suspense Chapter presents
The Daphne du Maurier Award
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MYSTERY/SUSPENSE
PUBLISHED DIVISION 2017
SAMPLE SCORE SHEET

SCORING (88 points max.)

- 5 = excellent
- 4 = good
- 3 = average
- 2 = fair
- 1 = poor

Important: We encourage comments both positive and encouraging. For any question scored 3 or less, the Daphne Committee strongly urges that you include comments and/or an explanation.

OPENING

- ___ Opening hook: is it a real attention grabber?
- ___ Opening pages: does the author reveal the right amount of information, not too much or too little, to compel you to read on?

COMMENTS:

PLOT/PACING

- ___ Is the story original and well-executed?
- ___ Is the pacing appropriate to this category?

COMMENTS:

CHARACTERIZATION

- ___ Are the characters appropriate to the storyline?
- ___ Are the characters skillfully developed?

COMMENTS:

VOICE/POINT OF VIEW

- ___ Is the author's voice/style unique or fresh?
- ___ Is POV always clear?

COMMENTS:

DIALOGUE/NARRATIVE

- Is there a good balance between dialogue and narrative?
- Does the dialogue progress the story and help build the suspense?
- Does the narrative progress the story and help build the suspense?
- Does the dialogue ring true (normal and conversational, not too stiff and unnatural)?

COMMENTS:

STORY DETAILS

- Does the conflict arise naturally from the situation (is not forced)?
- Does the setting enhance the story (it's not intrusive)?
- Are there enough twists and turns to keep the reader guessing?
- Is the ending believable?
- Does the ending tie up all the loose ends?

COMMENTS:

OPTIONAL BONUS POINT (worth 1 additional point)

- Is the entry a compelling read?

OPTIONAL BONUS POINT (worth 1 additional point)

- Would you buy this book?

OPTIONAL BONUS POINT (worth 1 additional point)

- Would you recommend this book to a friend?

Please mark ONE (1) statement that best describes this particular entry. This will be used as a tie-breaker.

- 10. An excellent book; one of the best I've read lately
- 9. This book is superb; masterfully written
- 8. A wonderful read
- 7. An entertaining read
- 6. Well done
- 5. Somewhat enjoyable
- 4. Some good moments
- 3. A struggle to complete the reading
- 2. Not compelling
- 1. Entered in the wrong category

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Optional – Judge's Name: